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CLB 12284/05/10

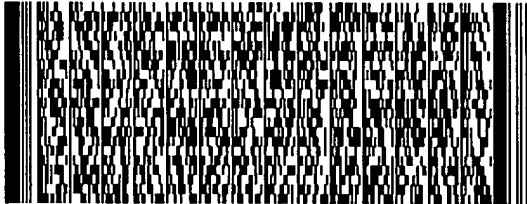
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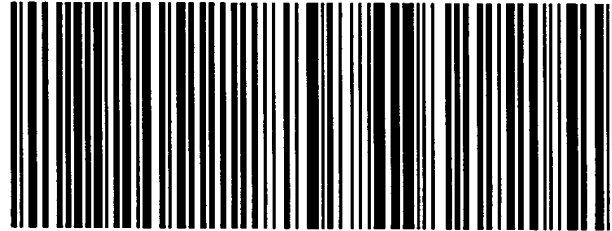
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Ramanath Narayan Bhat
7 Dale Street
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May 23, 2005

Ms. Cam Nguyen
Primary Examiner
United States Department of Commerce
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Application No. 10/630,409

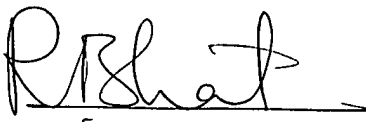
Dear Ms. Nguyen:

This is with reference to your communication dated May 11, 2005 regarding above application (10/630,409). The communication (PTOL-324: Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121)) mentions that the amendment document filed on 16 February 2005 is considered non-compliant. Please note that subsequent to the February 16, 2005 communication to you we have faxed 6 pages (copies of the same attached to this correspondence), which also included the amended claims, which are similar to the ones mentioned in MPEP 714.

Finally, I thank you very much for all your help in this matter.

With Regards,

Sincerely,


(Ramanath Bhat) -

0032 We claim:

1. (withdrawn): An improved steam reforming catalyst composition comprising:

- a. Nickel, platinum, palladium, rhodium or combinations thereof;
- b. at least two partially reducible metal oxides chosen from the oxides of cerium, molybdenum, tungsten, vanadium, tin and chromium;
- c. zirconium oxide
- d. lanthanum oxide and
- e. aluminum oxide

wherein the Group VIII metal comprises nickel, platinum, palladium, rhodium or mixtures thereof.

2. (original): An improved steam reforming process for producing a hydrogen-rich gas comprising reacting a sulfur – containing hydrocarbon feedstock with steam over the catalysts of claim 1 at a temperature in the range of 600 - 900 °C wherein the sulfur content of the hydrocarbon feedstock is at least 1 ppm.

3. (original): A steam reforming process according to claim 2 wherein the sulfur-containing hydrocarbon feedstock is natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, naphtha, gasoline, kerosene, jet fuel, diesel, or methane.